

HIS HIGHNESS  
THE SULTAN  
OF PAHANG

SIR ABU BAKAR IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN ABDULLAH, G.C.M.G.

By

M.C.F. SHEPPARD

DS595.6  
A166S54

1843

HIS HIGHNESS  
**THE SULTAN  
OF PAHANG**

Sir Abu Bakar ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdullah, G.C.M.G.

by  
M.C. ff SHEPPARD, C.M.G., M.B.E., P.P.T.

*published on the authority of His Highness  
on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee*

*29th May, 1957*



SINGAPORE  
DONALD MOORE

*His Highness Sir Abu Bakar, G.C.M.G., Sultan of Pahang.*







*First published 1957*

Photo  
T. 10. 1. 55  
P. 10. 1. 55

Printed in Singapore by  
THE STRAITS TIMES PRESS LTD.  
For the Publishers  
DONALD MOORE  
MACDONALD HOUSE, SINGAPORE.

## CONTENTS

1. An Old Kingdom and a New Ruler, 7
2. The Pre-war Years, 11
3. The Japanese Occupation, 18
4. His Highness on Tour, 23
5. His Highness and the Emergency, 31

**S. DURAI RAJA SINGAM**  
HOUSE SEVEN  
SECTION ELEVEN-THREE  
PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA  
TELEPHONE 772425.

# ILLUSTRATIONS

His Highness Sir Abu Bakar, G.C.M.G., Sultan of Pahang Celebrations at Kuala Kangsar in connection with the wedding of Tengku Abu Bakar in 1926	<i>Frontispiece</i> Page
The bridegroom's carriage escorted by spearmen	9
Tengku Abu Bakar on his proclamation as Tengku Mahkota in June, 1930	9
The Installation of His Highness the Sultan of Pahang in 1933 at Pekan	10
Installation as Sultan, 1933	11
His Highness riding his Californian polo pony Blue Grass at Pekan	12
The Pahang Polo Team in Java in 1938. His Highness is standing second from the right	13
His Highness, with his partner, the late Tengku Muhamad, after winning the All Malaya Malays Tennis Doubles Championship in Kuala Lumpur in 1938	14
His Highness playing tennis in 1956	14
His Highness as Colonel-in-Chief of the Pahang Battalion, F.M.S. Volunteer Force, in 1937	15
His Highness and Her Highness Tengku Ampuan Pahang, Raja Fatimah binti Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Shah of Perak	16
Lt. Col. Yeop Mahidin bin Haji Shariff, M.B.E., Commander of the Wataniah Pahang, with Sgt. Abdullah Bima, Force 136, photographed in 1945	19
His Highness sits with the District Officer, Temerloh, and Che' Yeop Mahidin, to listen to problems brought to him by his subjects	20
His Highness speaks to his people at Kuala Bera	24
His Highness visiting Kampong Bantal in Ulu Tembeling	25
At Kampong Bantal	26
His Highness speaking to Aborigines during his visit to Tasek Bera	27
His Highness signing the Federation Agreement, 1948	28
His Highness during a visit to the Police Depot	30
His Highness inspecting Bentong Home Guard	32
His Highness receiving the Order of G.C.M.G. from the High Commissioner Sir Gerald Templer at Pekan, 1953	33
His Highness receives a visit from Sir Donald MacGillivray	34
His Highness inspects the Police Band	35
His Highness inspecting the 6th Bn. the Malay Regiment at Mentakab	36



# AN OLD KINGDOM AND A NEW RULER

---

Long before Malacca was founded by Parameswara in about 1400, there flourished an ancient Malay Kingdom bearing the name of Pahang and covering the whole of the South of the Malay Peninsula.

'Pahang' is the Khmer word for tin, which has been mined at Sungei Lembing and on the Tembeling since prehistoric times, and it is possible that the name of the Kingdom is derived from this word.

Pahang tin attracted the attention of the powerful mediaeval kingdom of Ligor, once situated where Thailand is today, and for a considerable period Pahang was a vassal of Ligor. The suzerainty passed to the Thais in 1280 when they overran Ligor, and, though it was interrupted by the Majapahit invasion, the ruler was still described as Siamese in 1454 when Sultan Mansur Shah of Malacca decided to conquer it.

When the Javanese Kingdom of Majapahit invaded this country in about 1360 they referred to the whole Peninsula as Pahang, and even today the State of Pahang is the largest of the Malay States, covering an area of 14,000 square miles.

Tun Perak, the famous Malacca Bendahara, led the expedition against Pahang in 1454 and won an easy victory, and for the next century and a half members of the Malacca Malay royal family ruled in Pahang.

By 1635 Pahang had twice been ravaged and depopulated by Iskandar Muda of Aceh and had been repeatedly attacked by the Portuguese, the Dutch and by the Malay ruler of Johore, and the once prosperous kingdom had become a desolate haunt of pirates.



From this time onwards Pahang was ruled from Johore or Riau, though more and more power passed from the Malay ruler, who was under Bugis dominance, to the Bendahara, who took up his residence in Pahang and whose special province Pahang now became.

From pre-Malacca times the royal capital of Pahang has been known, simply, as 'the Town'—Pekan (Malay) or Pura (Sanskrit)—and it continued to be the headquarters of the Bendaharas, who were the virtual rulers of the State, from about 1760 onwards. The Riau-Johore kingdom faded into oblivion in the 19th century and Bendahara Ali of Pahang, who held office from 1806 to 1857, declared himself an independent Ruler in 1853.

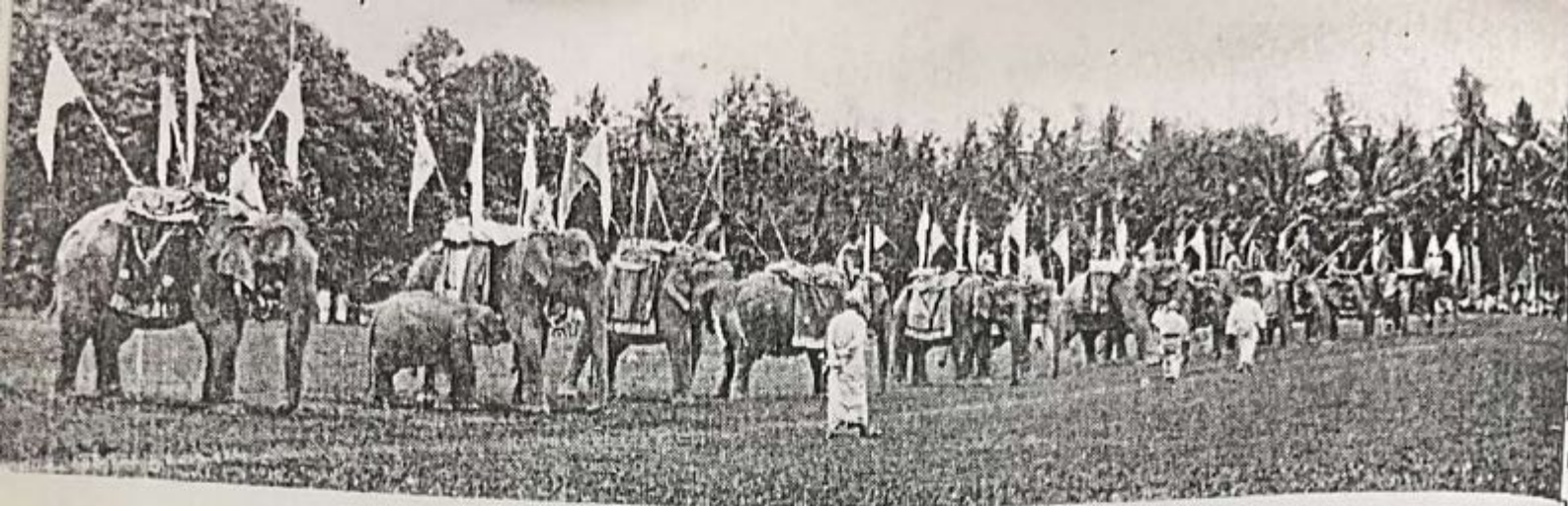
Bendahara Ali's second and favourite son, Wan Ahmad, challenged the right of his elder brother, Wan Mutahir, to succeed to the title when his father died in 1857, and after six years of intermittent warfare, in which he overcame formidable odds, Wan Ahmad captured Pekan and was proclaimed Bendahara in May, 1863. He assumed the title of Sultan Ahmad al-Mu'azam Shah in August, 1882, and reigned till 1914. His Highness Sultan Sir Abu Bakar ibni Almarhom Sultan Abdullah, whose Silver Jubilee is celebrated on 29th May, 1957, is the grandson of Sultan Ahmad.

When Tengku Abu Bakar was born in Pekan on 29th May, 1904, his prospects of ascending the throne can only have been regarded as slight. His royal grandfather was still reigning, his uncle Tengku Mahmud, the heir to the throne, and his father Tengku Abdullah and his elder brother Tengku Abdul Rahman were all in robust health.

But his uncle died in 1917 and was succeeded by his father, who became Sultan Abdullah, and his elder brother died during the influenza epidemic in 1919, leaving Tengku Abu Bakar as heir apparent at the age of fifteen.

Tengku Abu Bakar joined his elder brother at the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, in 1917, after attending the Malay School at Pekan for four years, but both he and his elder brother caught the influenza infection at school in 1919, and, although he recovered, his royal father refused to allow him to return to the Malay College or to go to any other school and he remained in Pekan for the next seven years, except





*Celebrations at Kuala Kangsar at the wedding of Tengku Abu Bakar in 1926.*

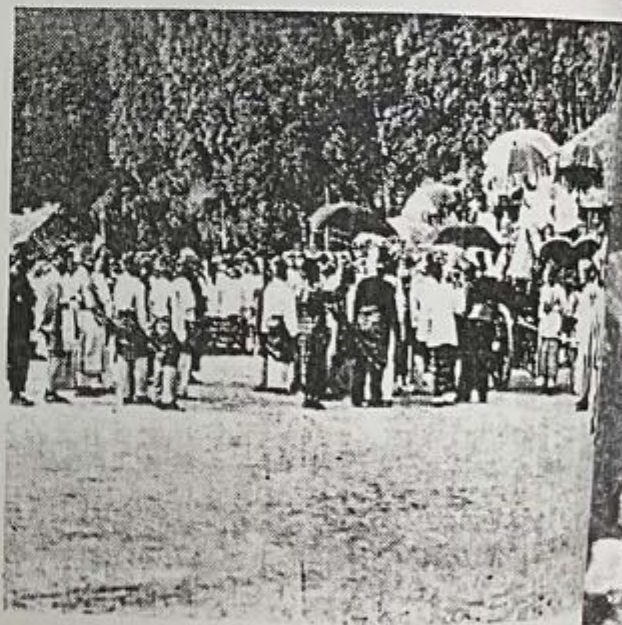
for rare expeditions to Kuala Lumpur when he accompanied his father to Rulers' Conferences.

In April, 1926, Tengku Abu Bakar travelled to Kuala Kangsar to take part in the elaborate ceremonies and celebrations which were arranged to mark his marriage to Raja Fatimah, the daughter of the Sultan of Perak.

The celebrations lasted for forty days, and it was during this period that his father-in-law Sultan Iskandar, a keen polo player, first introduced Tengku Abu Bakar to the pleasures of horsemanship. Three years earlier Tengku Abu Bakar had been attached to the Land Office in Pekan, where Dr. W. Linehan was District Officer, and it was Dr. Linehan and his wife who first introduced him to the game of tennis, at which he became so skilful a player in later years.

When the great flood occurred in December, 1926, Tengku Abu Bakar was still in Perak, but he travelled with the Sultan of Perak to visit distressed areas.

In 1928 Tengku Abu Bakar was attached to the Land Office in Kuala Kangsar and worked under Mr. (now Sir) T. S. Adams, who encouraged him to join the Malay Volunteer Infantry (M.V.I.) as a Private. Later in the year he moved to Telok Anson, where he was



*The bridegroom's carriage escorted by spearmen.*



under the care of the Raja Muda (later Sultan Abdul Aziz), who was himself an experienced administrative officer and a keen tennis player; but in April, 1929, Tengku Abu Bakar was recalled to Pahang and worked in the Land Office in Temerloh, where he was gazetted as Assistant Collector of Land Revenue. He continued to take a keen interest in the Volunteer Force and received a Commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Malay Volunteer Infantry. Early the following year the Sultan called him to Pekan, where he continued to serve in the Land Office until June. He was then proclaimed Tengku Mahkota.

Nearly two years later, in April, 1932, a Durbar of the Rulers of the four Federated Malay States was held at Pekan, which was attended by Sir Cecil Clementi the High Commissioner. Tengku Abu Bakar was Chairman of the committee which made all the arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the guests.

Soon afterwards the health of Sultan Abdullah, his father, began to deteriorate. At first the illness was not thought to be serious, but he died at the comparatively early age of fifty-six on 22nd June, 1932. Tengku Abu Bakar was proclaimed Sultan the next day.



*Tengku Abu Bakar  
on his proclamation  
as Tengku Mahkota  
in June, 1930.*



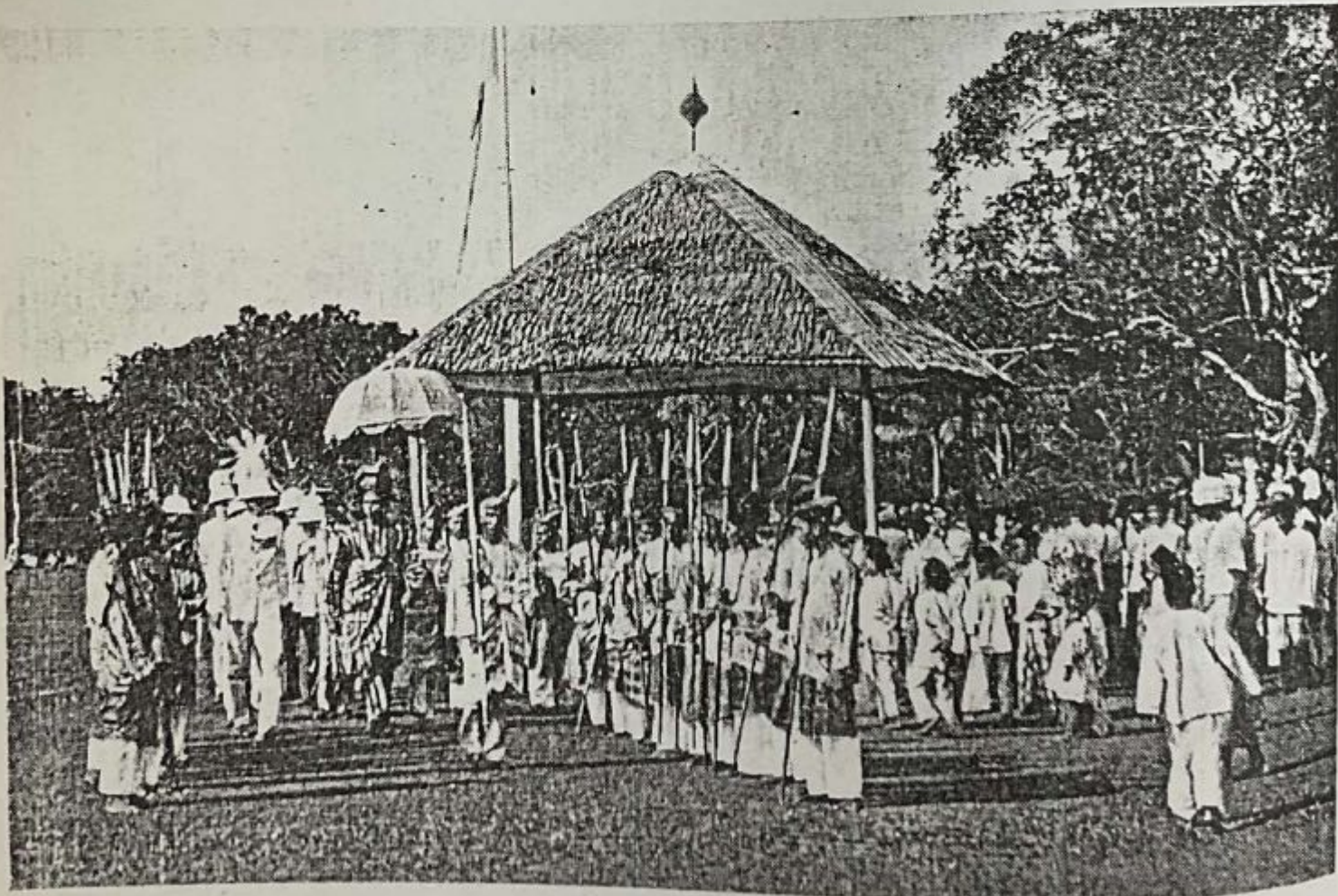
## THE PRE-WAR YEARS

---

The first eight years of Sultan Abu Bakar's reign have been the only ones in which conditions in Pahang have been normal, and during those early years His Highness lived a relatively uneventful life.

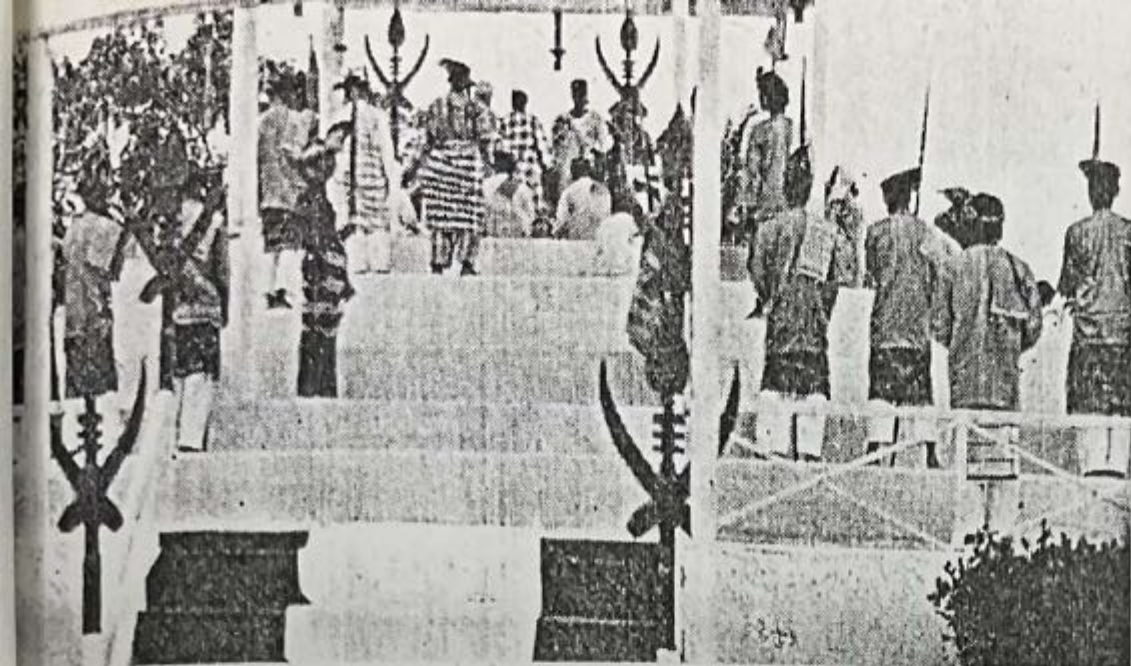
The High Commissioner, Sir Cecil Clementi, and the Sultan of Perak and representatives of other Malay Rulers were present at His Highness's installation as Sultan in Pekan on 29th May, 1933, amid scenes of traditional pageantry.

His Highness married Tengku Azam binti Tengku Omar in 1937



*The Installation of His Highness the Sultan of Pahang in 1933 at Pekan.*





*Installation as  
Sultan, 1933*

and she still retains an honoured and intimate position in the Royal circle. Tengku Ahmad, His Highness's eldest son by Raja Fatimah, is now Tengku Mahkota but he is the only son of that marriage. Tengku Ibrahim, His Highness's eldest son by Tengku Azam, has completed his education at the Clifford School, Kuala Lipis, and is now continuing his studies in Ireland; he is an all round athlete like his royal father. His Highness has eight sons and ten daughters. He has made it a rule that all his sons will attend one or other of the State primary and secondary schools exactly like the sons of his subjects.

His Highness is a strict Muslim. He attends Friday prayers regularly, wherever he may be, and frequently makes reference to religion when he speaks to his people during his tours of the State. He never drinks alcohol or smokes. His Highness was largely responsible for setting up the Islamic College at Pekan and visits it frequently, and religious teachers come regularly to the Istanas in Pekan to teach members of the royal family.

Soon after his accession the Sultan gave orders for two hard tennis courts and a polo ground to be prepared at Pekan, and it was soon evident that the new Ruler was endowed with rare physical strength and unusual skill at many and varied forms of sport. He had quickly acquired a proficiency at polo, tennis and golf, he was a first class shot with a rifle and shotgun, a keen motorist, and he could dance in both Malay and Western style with exceptional grace. In 1934 His Highness led a polo team to take part in polo tournaments in Kuala Kangsar, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The Pahang team was entirely Malay and included two of His Highness's brothers, Tengku Arif Bendahara and Tengku Ismail,



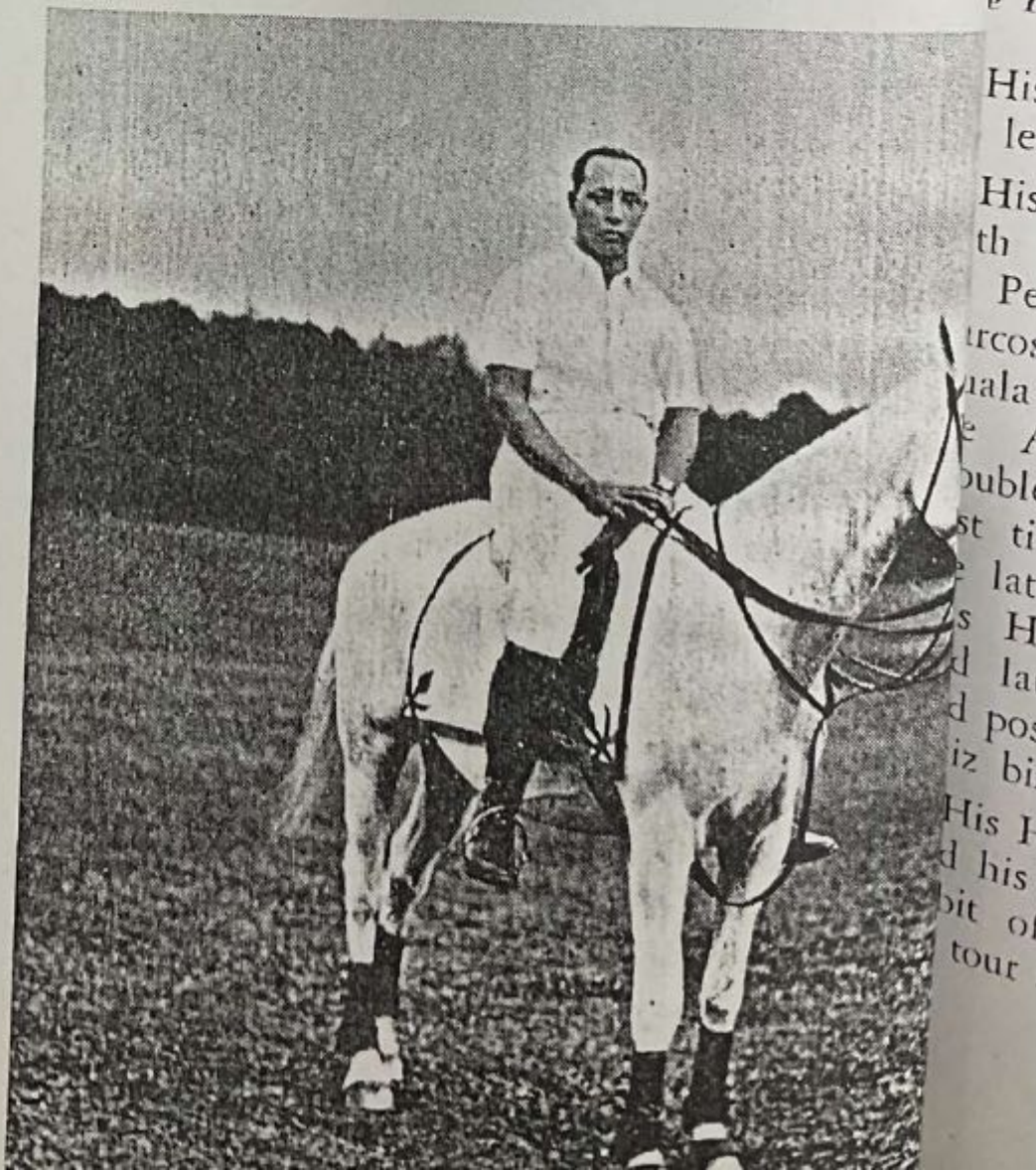
and His Highness's office peon, Ibrahim. His Highness had acquired a number of polo ponies, two of which he had imported from California, and in the years which followed the Pahang team won almost all the open and handicap polo trophies which were available for competition, and two of the pre-war cups survived the Japanese occupation solely because they were in the Sultan's Istana in 1942.

His Highness took his polo team to Java in 1938 at the invitation of the Dutch Cavalry, and then made an extensive tour of the country arranged by the British Consul General, covering more than three thousand miles.

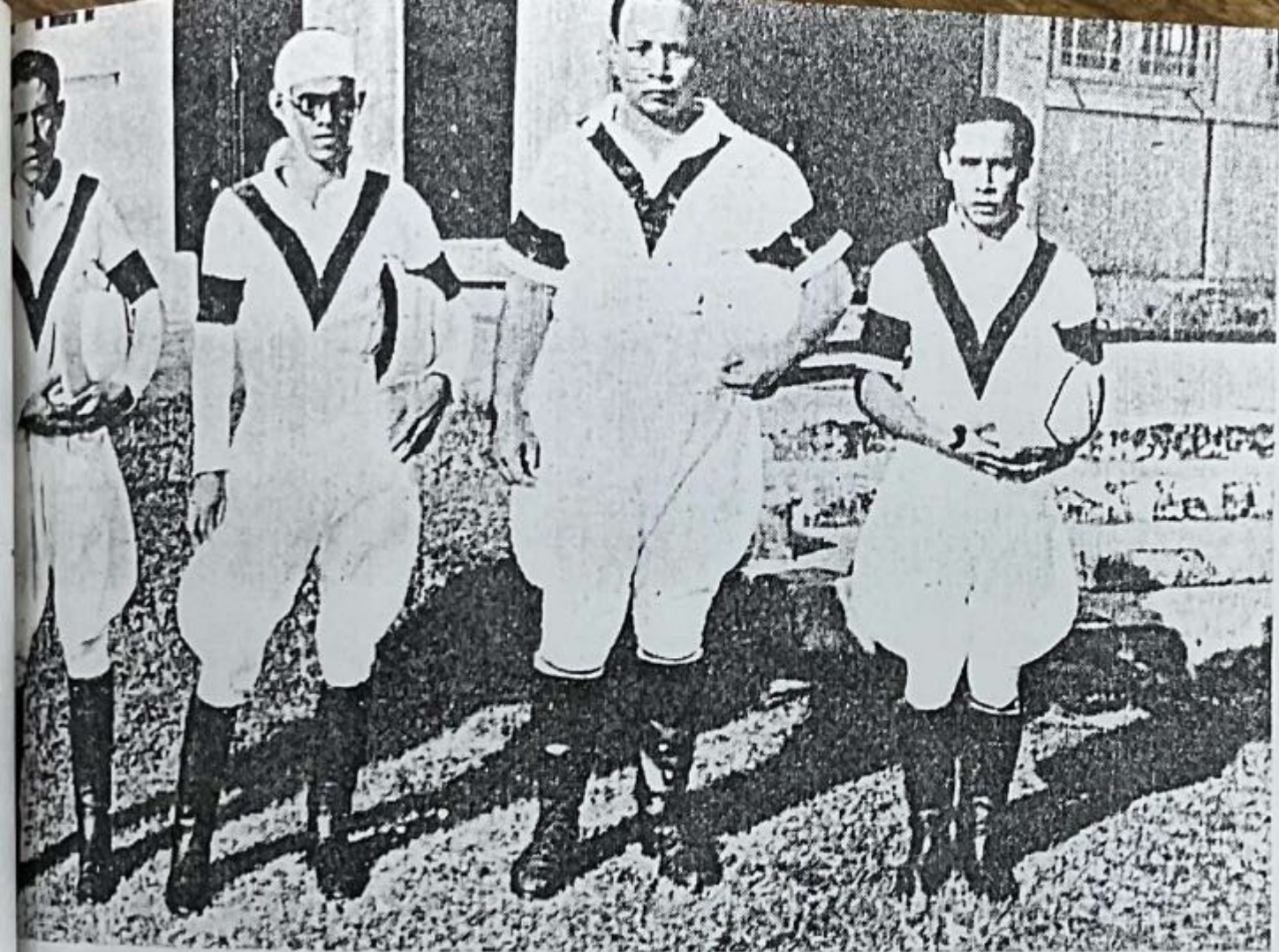
His Highness's love of riding continues to this day and when he is in Pekan he rides every morning before breakfast, and plays polo at least two afternoons per week.

During the Japanese occupation the Japanese removed all His Highness's horses and put them to work, but they so misused them that only one was still alive in 1945.

*His Highness riding his Californian polo pony Blue Grass at Pekan.*







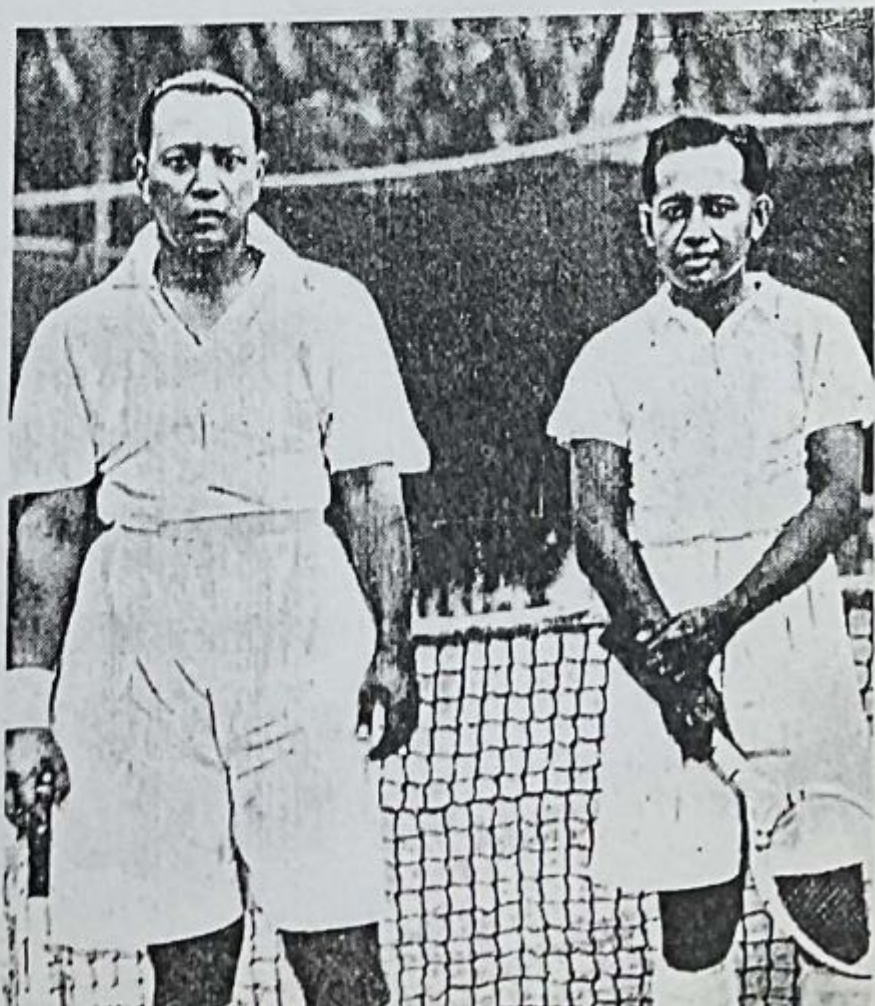
*The 1938 Pahang Polo Team in Java. His Highness is standing second from the right.*

His Highness's tennis record is no less successful.

His Highness played regularly with the late Sultan Abdul Aziz of Perak, and at King's House, Carcosa and at the Golf Club in Kuala Lumpur, and he has won the All-Malaya Malays Tennis Doubles Championship twice, the first time in 1938, partnered by the late Tengku Muhammad, then His Highness's Private Secretary and later Mentri Besar, Pahang, and postwar in 1953, partnered by Aziz bin Ali, M.C.S.

His Highness's interest in tennis and his skill at the game and his habit of playing regularly when on tour has raised the standard of

*His Highness, with his partner, the late Tengku Muhammad, after winning the All-Malaya Malays Tennis Doubles Championship in Kuala Lumpur in 1938.*





performance among Government officers throughout his State.

While still a youth at Pekan, His Highness took lessons in the Malay art of self-defence—Silat—from the two most famous teachers in the State, Pendekar Endol and Pendekar Ahmad, both from Temerloh district, and he has never ceased to encourage the teachers and the young men in Pahang to keep the art alive.

From its first formation His Highness has taken a very keen interest in the Malay Regiment, and of all the Malay Rulers he is the most frequent visitor to the Headquarters at Port Dickson. The Fourth Battalion, whose base is at Mentakab, has been the object of His Highness's special interest.

When the first recruiting team came to Pekan in 1938 His Highness addressed the public on the padang and gave a Khenduri at the Polo Club to the men who made up the demonstration team, and when the need for officers to meet the expansion of the Regiment was urgent in 1941 His Highness readily agreed to release the Controller of his Household, Mr. N. T. Bewick (later Col. Bewick, State Home Guard Officer, Pahang), to join the Regiment, and he served as a Lieutenant with the Second Battalion and was a prisoner-of-war.

His Highness's active interest in the Volunteers is well demonstrated by the following incident. In 1940 the Volunteers were embodied for training, in anticipation of a possible outbreak of war in the Far



*His Highness playing tennis in 1956.*





His Highness as Colonel-in-Chief of the Pahang Battalion, F.M.S. Volunteer Force, in 1937.



East. The Malay platoon from Pekan was below strength and Mr. Bewick mentioned this to His Highness during a game of golf. At the end of the game, before returning to the Istana, His Highness took a sheet of paper and wrote down the names of fifteen young men in Pekan, and gave it to Bewick. When these men came to Bewick's office the next morning they only asked one question, "When do we start?" and not one of them was late for the chartered bus which was waiting on the other side of the river twenty-four hours later to take them to the training camp at Raub. They proved to be some of the best men in the Battalion.

The Volunteers were always present in strength at His Highness's Birthday parade in Pekan, and every alternate year the whole of the Fourth (Pahang) Battalion F.M.S.V.F. camped at Pekan, and all the Officers were guests of their Colonel-in-Chief at the Istana at dinner.

In view of his active interest in the armed forces His Highness was invited to a series of demonstrations in Singapore late in 1939 entitled "the Empire at War". At the conclusion, His Highness expressed the opinion that Malay youths could give valuable assistance to the British forces in defence of Malaya if they were entolled as interpreters, guides and drivers, and added that he was confident that a large number of young Malays would come forward if called on to do so. To His Highness the threat of war was very real, and, though his far-sighted suggestion was not followed up, His Highness showed even greater keenness to visit and encourage the men of the Malay Regiment and of the Volunteer Force in their training.



## THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION

---

From the beginning to the end of the Japanese occupation of Malaya it would be no exaggeration to say that the Japanese never once accorded His Highness the courtesy and respect which was due to him as the Ruler of Pahang.

As soon as the first enemy landing took place in Kelantan on 8th December, 1941, His Highness was advised to move from Pekan to Temerloh, and he and five hundred members of the Royal family and court travelled up river by every available means of transport. When the British army withdrew to Temerloh, His Highness and his family moved to Buntok Pulau and later further up river, but when the army and the civil Government had retreated further south, His Highness returned to Temerloh and was able to curtail the looting of public offices and buildings which had quickly begun.

His Highness was taken to Kuala Lumpur in a Japanese army convoy in January, 1942, and was allotted accommodation in a Chinese house in Gombak for two nights before he was called for a brief interview with General Manaki, who told him to return to Raub with the Governor of Pahang, Colonel Fugonaga. At Raub His Highness had to wait for ten days, staying with the Penghulu of Gali, and was then taken to Kuala Lipis, where he was told to read out a proclamation ordering all Government officers to return to work. His Highness was then allowed to return to Temerloh and thence by gradual stages to Pekan. His Highness's return to Pekan had the immediate effect of checking the excesses of the Japanese soldiery, but within a few hours of his arrival His Highness received an order from a Kempeitai Lieutenant to go to Kuantan, which he ignored.

A week later, His Highness travelled to Kuantan in answer to a second peremptory summons and was taken to the Kempeitai Headquarters in a Chinese school. His Highness took the opportunity to ask



*His Highness and  
Her Highness Teng-  
ku Azan.*



for and got a supply of rice for the people of Pekan, who were then very short of supplies.

His Highness was twice called to Singapore to what the Japanese called a 'Meeting', once in April, 1942, to meet General Yamashita, and again in 1944 to meet General Tojo. On the latter occasion His Highness and the other Rulers were required to sit in the hot sun in full dress on the Municipal Padang for two and a half hours before General Tojo arrived. When General Tojo eventually appeared he made a brief speech to the public, ignoring the Rulers, and drove away. When His Highness and the other Rulers met General Tojo the next day he gave Their Highnesses a brief lecture on closer co-operation, but the opinions or views of the Rulers on any matter were never once invited by the Japanese throughout the whole of the occupation.

His Highness lived at Pekan throughout this period, but he paid regular visits to Kuala Lipis during which he kept in touch with

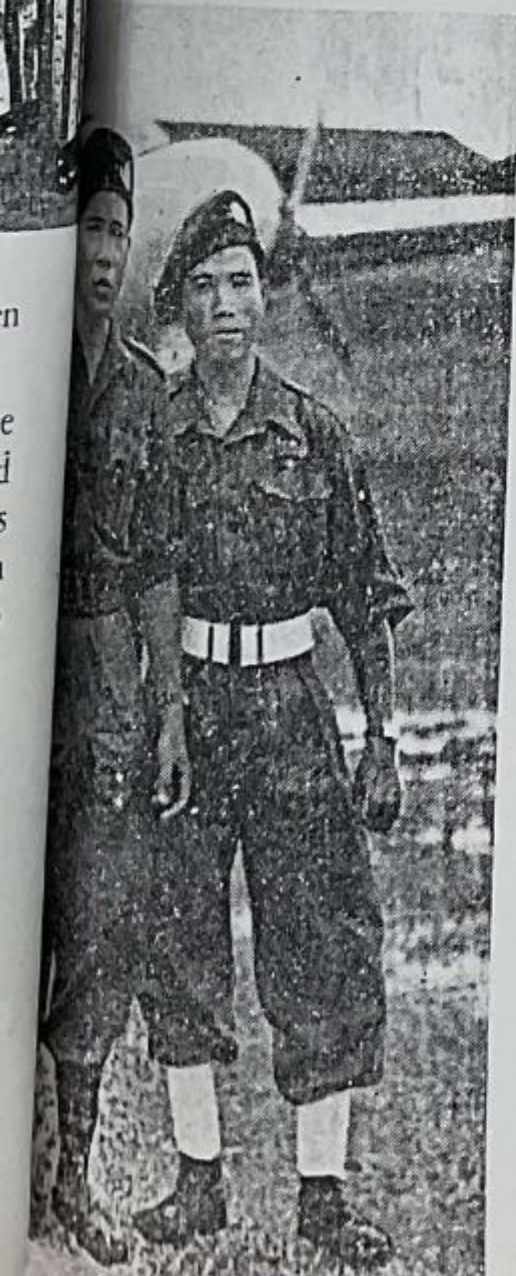




events in other parts of the State, and it was during one of his early visits to Kuala Lipis late in 1942 that His Highness listened to and approved proposals to organise in secret a Malay resistance force, to be known subsequently as the Wataniah, under the leadership of Yeop Mahidin bin Haji Shariff of the Malay Administrative Service, who was then Assistant District Officer, Raub. This force, which eventually consisted of two hundred and fifty-four hand-picked men, included Dato Abdul Razak, now Minister for Education, and Che Ghazalli Shafiei, M.C.S., now Malayan Commissioner in India, and His Highness accepted the position of titular Commander-in-Chief. The Japanese never discovered the existence of the force, although in 1945 almost every individual member spent two full weeks at a jungle training camp organised by members of Force 136, who had been parachuted into the jungle in Raub district. By June, when His Highness paid one of his regular visits to Kuala Lipis, Yeop Mahidin was able to report that the members of Wataniah had all been issued with arms, ammunition and uniforms, which each individual had concealed separately, and that they were preparing to play an important part, when the expected British invasion of Malaya took place. His Highness was in Kuala Lipis on 15th August, 1945, to attend a meeting of District Officers convened by the Japanese Governor, at which all present were scolded for the lack of co-operation by the public, but no reference was made to the war, or the impending surrender.

Two days later His Highness set out by car, on his return journey to Pekan, driving himself, accompanied by Dato Mahmud, retired Speaker of the Legislative Council, Che' Abdullah bin Sahat, M.C.S.,

*Lt.-Col. Yeop Mahidin bin Haji Shariff, M.B.E.,  
Commander of the Wataniah Pahang, with Sgt.  
Abdullah Binu, Force 136, photographed in 1945.*





District Officer, Pekan, and Tengku Nasiruddin, his A.D.C. At 4 p.m. they reached the 89th mile on the Lipis-Kuantan road and His Highness stopped at the Ng Tiong Kiat Plantations, to speak to the Chinese Manager and an Indian Dresser who often had up-to-date wireless news. As he started the car to proceed, six uniformed guerillas, three Americans and three Chinese, came out of the undergrowth and asked His Highness and his companions to accompany them into the jungle. The senior officer, Lieutenant Betaoise, who was a member of Force 136 and had been dropped by parachute three months earlier, apologised for the inconvenience and explained that he was acting on wireless instructions from the Headquarters of the invading force at Kandy. They were afraid, he said, that His Highness might be injured or even killed if discipline broke down among the Japanese following the Japanese broadcast of surrender.

His Highness walked three miles into the jungle to a camp where he spent the night. Dato Mahmud tried to send a note to Tengku Muhamad at Pekan, to tell him that His Highness was safe, but this was never delivered. As soon as the Japanese learnt what had happened they made strenuous efforts to find His Highness and the guerilla leader asked His Highness to move twice, even further into the jungle. The Japanese spread the report that His Highness had been abducted by Chinese guerillas with the object of causing strife between Malays and Chinese, but members of the Wataniah, who knew the true position, did their best to counter these reports, and they sent a message to Pekan to reassure His Highness's family.

For fourteen days His Highness waited patiently in the deep jungle, living in conditions of the greatest hardship. About eighty Chinese (the Manager and all the labour force of Ng Tiong Kiat Plantation, who had abandoned their homes for fear of Japanese vengeance) had crowded into the camp, making the situation infinitely more difficult, but His Highness did not complain.

Eventually on 4th September a letter was brought to the Camp by a guerilla, from Col. D. Headly (later British Adviser, Kelantan) promising to come and escort His Highness back to Pekan in three or four days, and on 8th September Captain Dorrity, of Force 136, arrived at His Highness's camp and on the next day, which was Hari Raya Haji, His Highness accompanied him to the road where they met



Col. Headly and ten uniformed members of the Wataniah, who were to act as His Highness's escort.

Driving first to Gambang, His Highness met Col. Spencer Chapman (author of *The Jungle is Neutral*) and they then made a triumphal progress to Pekan, along a road which was lined by thousands of Malays, who were waiting to welcome their Ruler home in safety. When His Highness had crossed the river at Pekan the large crowd insisted on pulling the car with ropes from the landing stage to the Istana.

Col. Chapman, Col. Headly and Captain Dorrity were the guests of His Highness for two nights before Col. Chapman and Col. Headly moved to Kuantan accompanied by Dato Mahmud, while Tengku Muhamad took charge of the situation in Pekan.

To mark the end of the chapter the Wataniah paraded at Pekan in November, 1945, and after inspecting them His Highness entertained the whole force to a Khenduri at the Istana Saadah, followed by the first Joget of the liberation.



## HIS HIGHNESS ON TOUR

---

From his regular visits to every part of his State His Highness has acquired an unrivalled and intimate knowledge of every kampong and of the problems of vast numbers of his subjects.

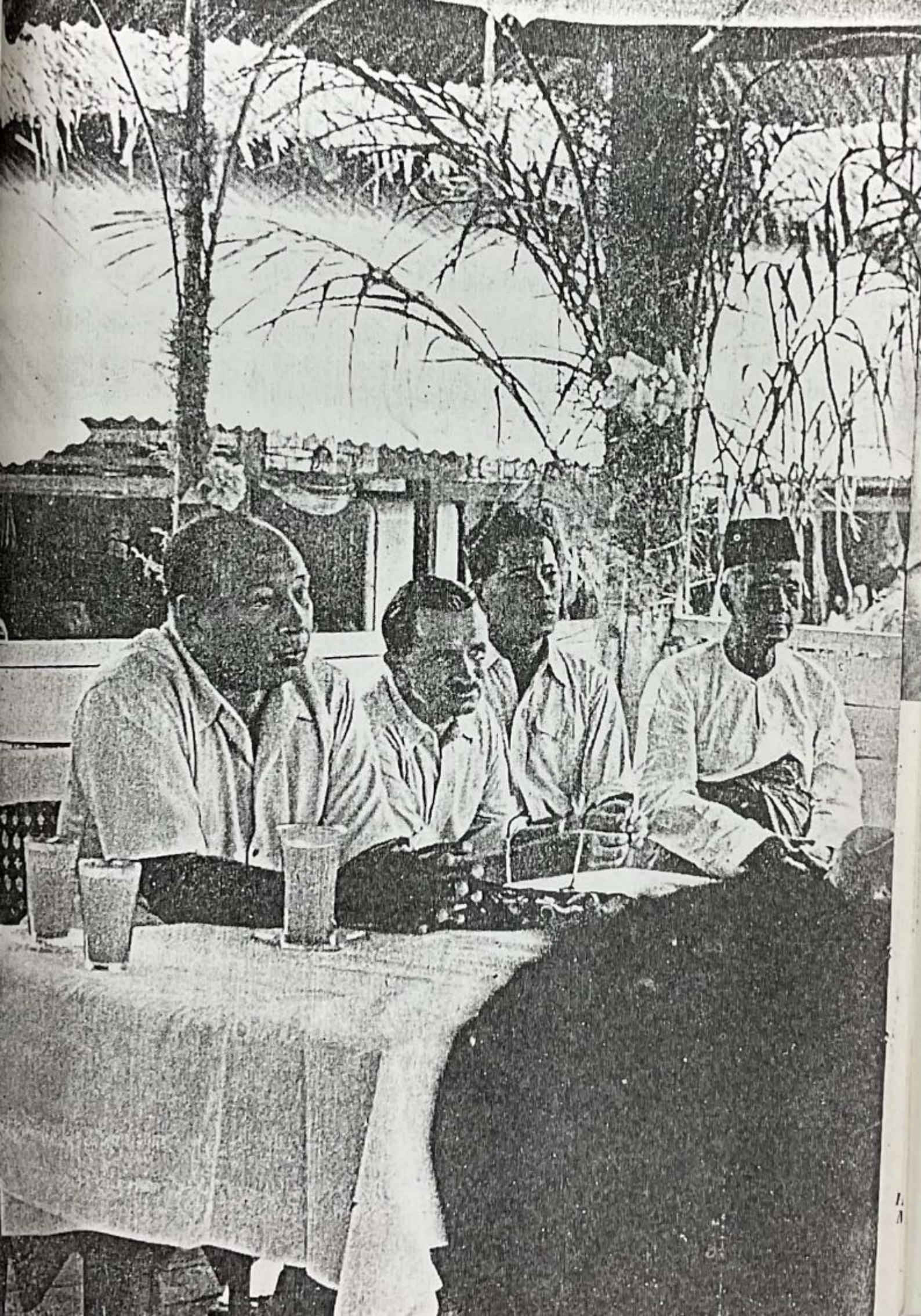
Every year, without fail, His Highness spends at least a full week in every district in the State, touring the rural areas often on foot or on a bicycle and spending each night in a different village, sometimes on his houseboat if it is a riverine kampong, or else in the Malay School. By this means he visits every village throughout his State at least once in three years.

These are no leisured progresses, in the ancient tradition of royalty, but strenuous tours of inspection by a Ruler whose knowledge and experience of administration and Land Office procedure calls for the utmost efforts of administrative and technical officers to satisfy his observant eye and enquiring mind.

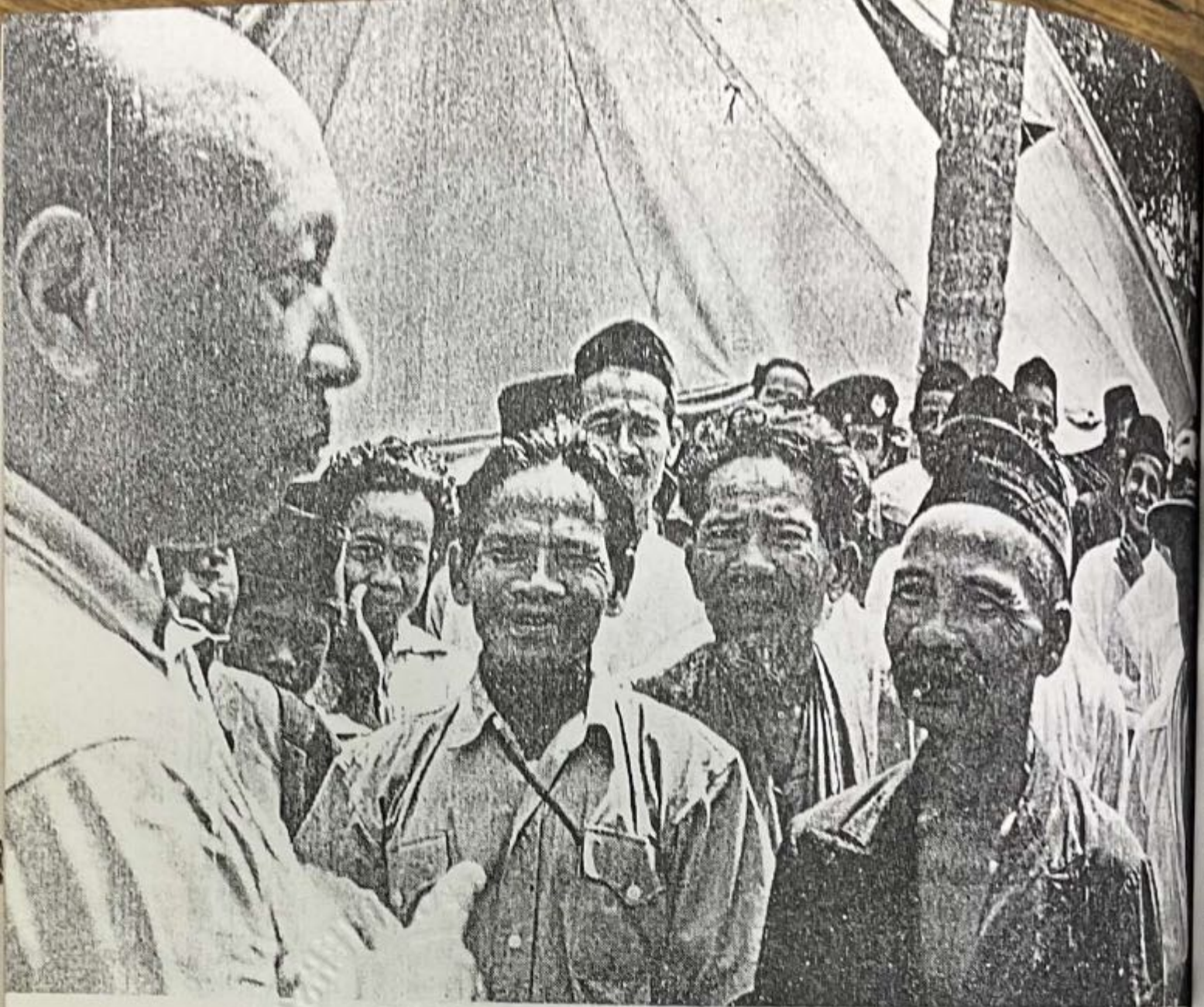
Whether His Highness is on tour or at Pekan he is invariably up by 6 a.m. regardless of the time he retired the night before. If he is in Pekan His Highness likes to walk up and down his verandah for twenty minutes, when he first rises, and to discuss some subject of current interest with a member of his personal staff.

When he is on tour His Highness's timetable begins at 7 a.m., by which time he has had his breakfast and is ready to start on the first visit or inspection of the day. Wherever His Highness goes he speaks to the people who gather eagerly to receive him. He is a fluent and powerful speaker in Malay, and seldom uses notes, conveying his thoughts and advice in simple language which everyone can understand. At the end of his speech His Highness invites any individual who has a complaint or problem to come and tell him about it, and he sits with infinite patience while one after another of his subjects relate their difficulties. The District Officer is always present, and as far as









*His Highness speaks to his people at Kuala Bera.*

possible His Highness likes to give the individual some definite advice or reply before he leaves, in preference to a promise that he will look into the matter at a later date, and he seldom leaves a kampong until he is satisfied that all that is possible has been done. There is usually only a short break for lunch and His Highness continues his tour till 4.30 or 5 p.m.

His Highness is quick to notice individual cases of hardship and is generous in helping those in need. One day as he was driving along a kampong road he saw an old man crouching on the roadside picking up grains of rice. He stopped his car and in answer to his question was told that the old man had bought a small quantity of rice to feed himself and his children but the packet had fallen on the ground. His Highness gave the man twenty dollars from his own pocket and continued his journey.

*His Highness sits with the District Officer, Temerloh, and Che' Yeop Iahidin, to listen to problems brought to him by his subjects.*

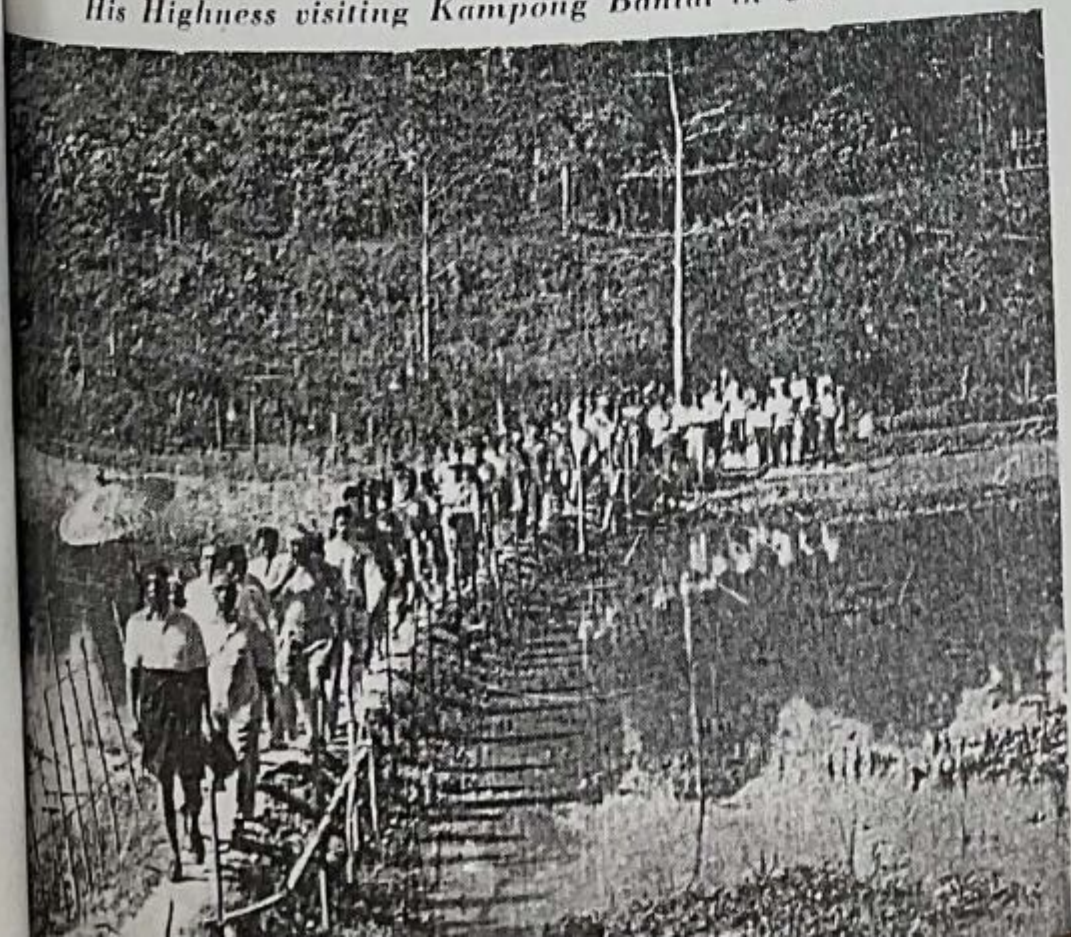


In planning his tours His Highness includes whenever possible an opportunity to encourage skill at Silat and traditional forms of dancing. After dinner the programme often includes a Ronggeng and other forms of Malay dancing, which attract the entire neighbourhood, including all the young men. During the course of the evening, when the crowd is greatest, His Highness mounts the Ronggeng platform and speaks to his people for half an hour or more.

For many years the Ronggeng party was supplied by His Highness and accompanied the Sultan in a lorry or houseboat. The dancers were employed at other times on domestic duties in one or other of the Istana, and the orchestra came from the Malay Club at Pekan. On these occasions members of His Highness's party also danced the Zapin and other traditional Malay dances which had entirely disappeared in many rural areas, but now the young men have learnt to dance them and they are no longer in danger of dying out. In some areas visited by His Highness this was the only evening of gaiety and music which the people enjoyed in the year, and it gave so much pleasure that in recent times many Mukims have chosen to subscribe to meet the cost of a professional Ronggeng party to coincide with His Highness's annual or triennial visit.

His Highness enjoys seeing others enjoying themselves and he frequently sits up till midnight or later to enable the Ronggeng to continue, and occasionally takes a turn on the dance floor, without the

*His Highness visiting Kampong Bantal in Ulu Tembeling.*







*At Kampong Bantal*

slightest loss of dignity, to the immense delight of the assembled multitude.

A week of long days and short nights reduces most district officials who accompany His Highness to a condition calling for casual leave, but His Highness never shows the slightest signs of fatigue and his interest and energy continue unflagging. His kindness is well demonstrated by a simple incident which occurred on one such tour. The Ronggeng on the previous night had continued till after 1 a.m. and, though His Highness was up and dressed as usual at 7 a.m. the next morning, he noticed as he came out of the Malay School where he had spent the night that the Police Lieutenant who was accompanying him was still asleep. His Highness went back into the school classroom, and sent one of his men to wake the Police officer, and His Highness only came out, with the appearance of just having completed his breakfast, when he knew that the Police Lieutenant was dressed and ready to move.

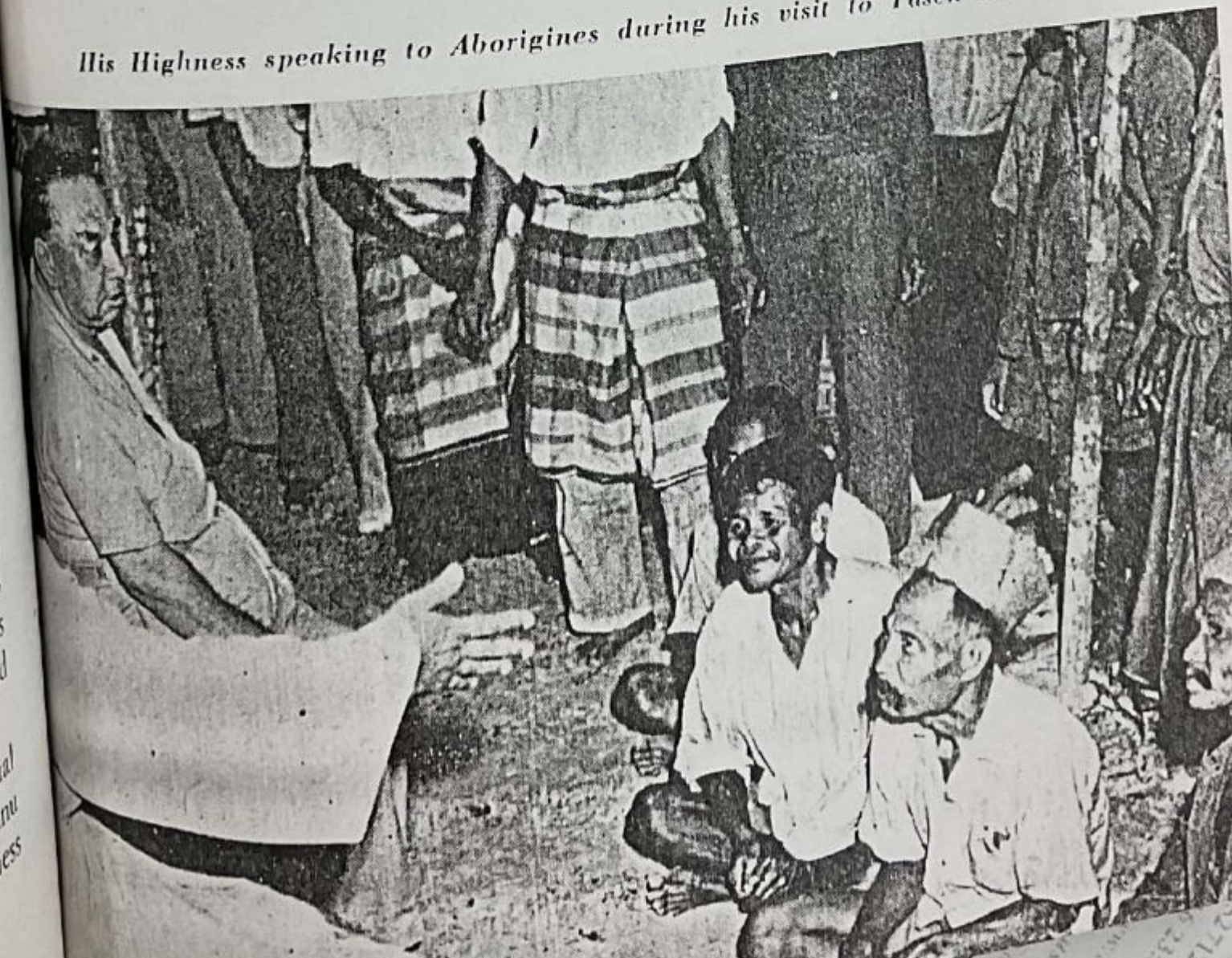
One of the visits which His Highness enjoys most is his annual expedition to Ulu Tembeling, which takes him up to the Trengganu boundary bordering Ulu Dungun. Starting from Jerantut His Highness



travels up river by outboard motor and spends a night at Kuala Tahan and another at Kuala Sat before reaching Kampong Bantal which has a population of over a thousand Malays. This is the greatest day of the year for the kampong. They leave their houses which are scattered over a wide area and put up temporary huts, clustering at a respectful distance from the larger building which they have erected for His Highness and his party. His Highness usually brings up a portable cinema projector and there is a film show after dark.

Perhaps the most remarkable of His Highness's expeditions was one which he undertook to Tasek Bera, that remote inland lake where whispers of the existence of a monster have stimulated public curiosity. An epidemic of smallpox had attacked the Aborigines who are the sole inhabitants of the region. The Aborigines fled at the approach of health officers and the disease was spreading. His Highness decided to

*His Highness speaking to Aborigines during his visit to Tasek Bera.*





go himself, travelling up the Bera river in a shallow dug-out, and frequently delayed by fallen trees. After two days of slow progress His Highness reached the northern end of the lake and called the Batin to his camp. The next day the Aborigines came in slow succession until they were all assembled. His Highness then showed them the marks on his arm where he had been vaccinated and told them all to follow his example. The vaccinators, who had accompanied His Highness, quickly set to work, and were able to attend to every man, woman and child who could be traced.

His Highness has travelled to many countries outside Malaya. He made his first visit to England in 1931 and returned to London in 1937 to attend the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI. In 1950 His Highness revisited England on a holiday, and attended the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, the famous race meetings at Ascot and Epsom, and a polo tournament at Cowdray Park. He was also a guest of honour at the Royal Tournament at Olympia, and at the Corona Club and British Association of Malaya dinners and at the British Industries Fair.

His Highness made his most extended tour in 1956 when he left Malaya on 4th June, accompanied by his wife Tengku Azam, and visited America, after calling at Hong Kong and Japan en route. Crossing the Atlantic in the Queen Mary, His Highness toured the European continent, visiting France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Italy, and returning to London for an audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. His Highness paid a special visit to Sandhurst to meet the cadets from the Malay and Federation Regiments and to see their training, and wherever he travelled he took every opportunity of riding and playing tennis.

And now when His Highness tours the districts he tells his people of dairy farming in Switzerland, of village handicrafts in Germany and of mechanised methods of agriculture in America and draws a score of lessons from his tour which can be applied to whatever part of Pahang he is visiting.





*His Highness signing the Federation Agreement, 1948.*



## HIS HIGHNESS AND THE EMERGENCY

---

When the Emergency was declared on 16th June, 1948, His Highness was at Port Dickson, paying one of his regular official visits to the Malay Regiment. Jerantut Police Station was attacked and burnt on 29th June and His Highness cancelled all his engagements in Negri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpur, and motored to Kuala Lipis for a conference with leading officials.

At the beginning of the Emergency Chin Peng, who was even then Secretary General of the Malayan Communist Party, and Ching Nam, Central Committee Member responsible for racial affairs, were both operating in the jungle in Temerloh district, and this district soon became a hotbed of Communist activity. The Chinese terrorists deliberately sought contact with Malay malcontents, and encouraged members of the Malay Nationalist Party and A.P.I. to join them. Abdullah C. D., Musa Ahmad, Manap Jepun and Shamsiah Pakeh all entered the jungle in Temerloh district, and preached hatred and revolution to the young men whose nationalist sentiments had previously stopped short of armed revolt. Arms were supplied by Ching Nam.

As soon as it became evident that young Malays were being influenced by Communist propaganda His Highness began a programme of special tours of troubled kampongs, which he has maintained throughout the Emergency. When the grave situation in Temerloh district first became known in October, 1948, His Highness set off from Pekan by motor launch, but the water in the river was very low, and he took the land route from Chenor to Temerloh, travelling in an open Jeep, through jungle where three trucks of Police were ambushed and suffered heavy casualties a few months later. His Highness

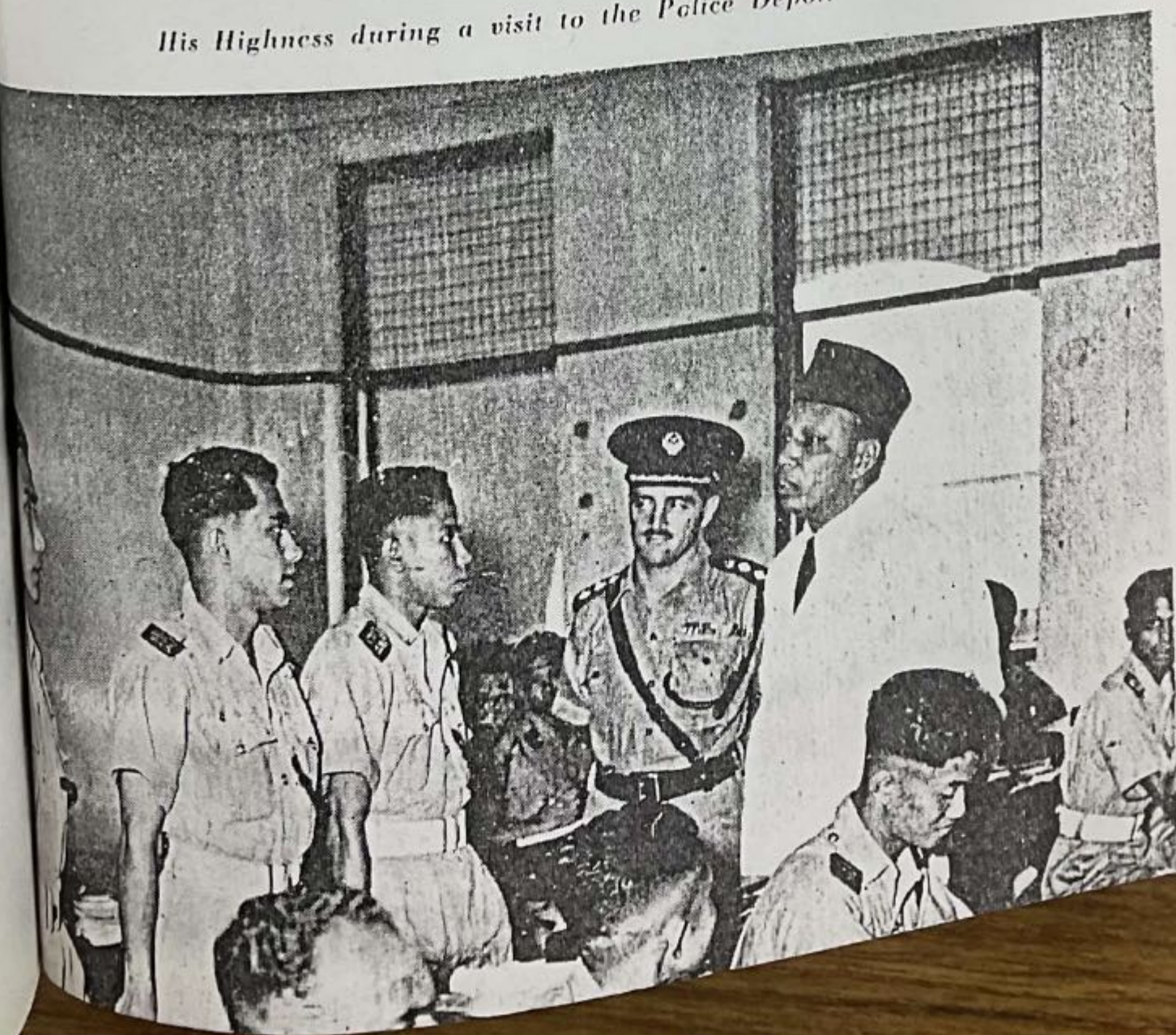


summoned all Penghulus and village Elders to Temerloh and addressed them, urging them to do all in their power to influence the young men, and to win back their loyalty, and impressed on them their duty to be the leaders in their villages.

By April, 1949, it was evident that the forces available to the Pahang Government were inadequate to combat successfully the growing Communist strength, and His Highness suggested to the Chief Police Officer that Kampong Guards should be formed to assist the Police in the protection of the villages, and offered Yeop Mahidin bin Haji Shariff, former Wataniah Commander and then His Highness's personal Secretary, to organise the new body. His Highness's proposals were adopted and they proved to be of vital importance to the outcome of the Emergency in the State.

Yeop Mahidin set up the Headquarters of the Pahang Kampong Guards in Temerloh and carried a personal letter from His Highness

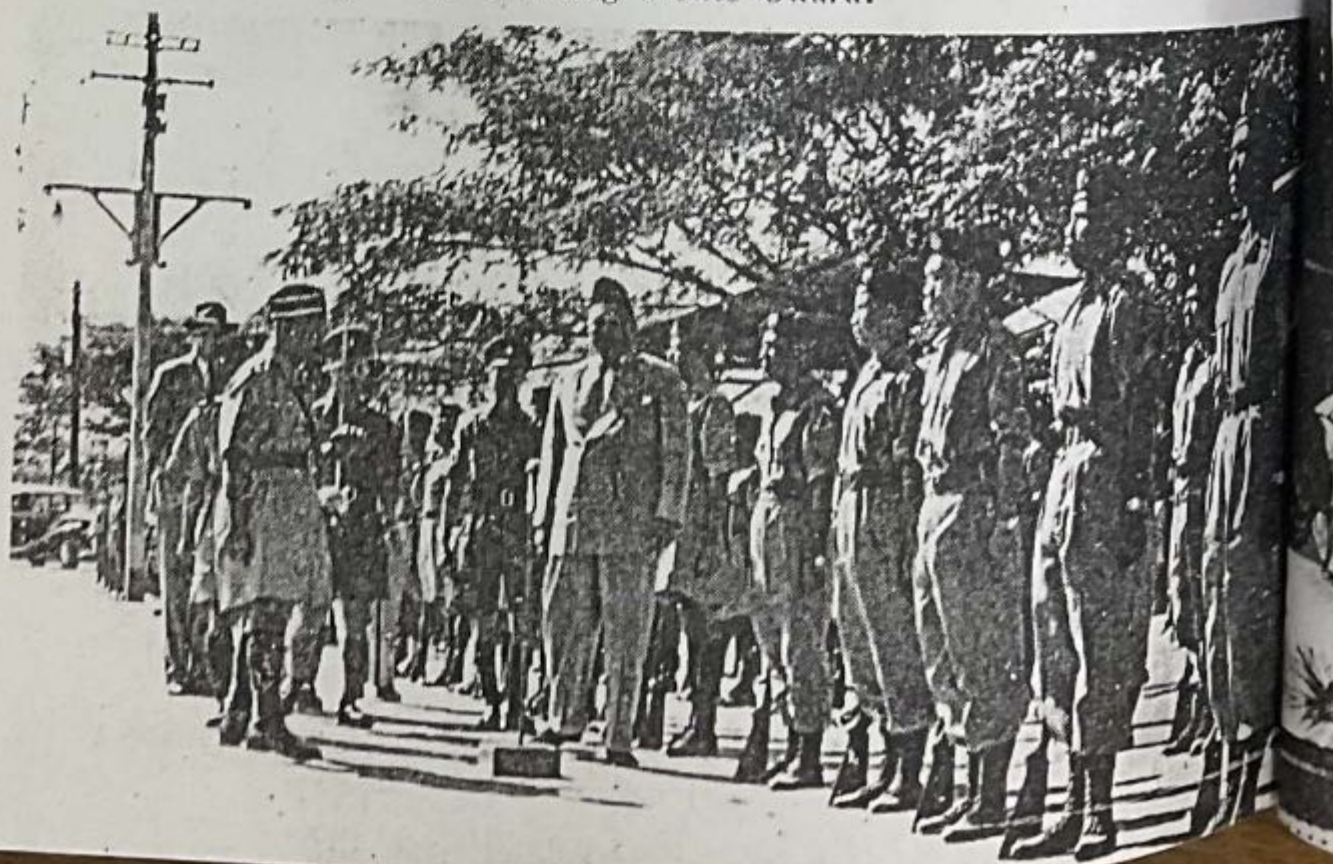
*His Highness during a visit to the Police Depot.*



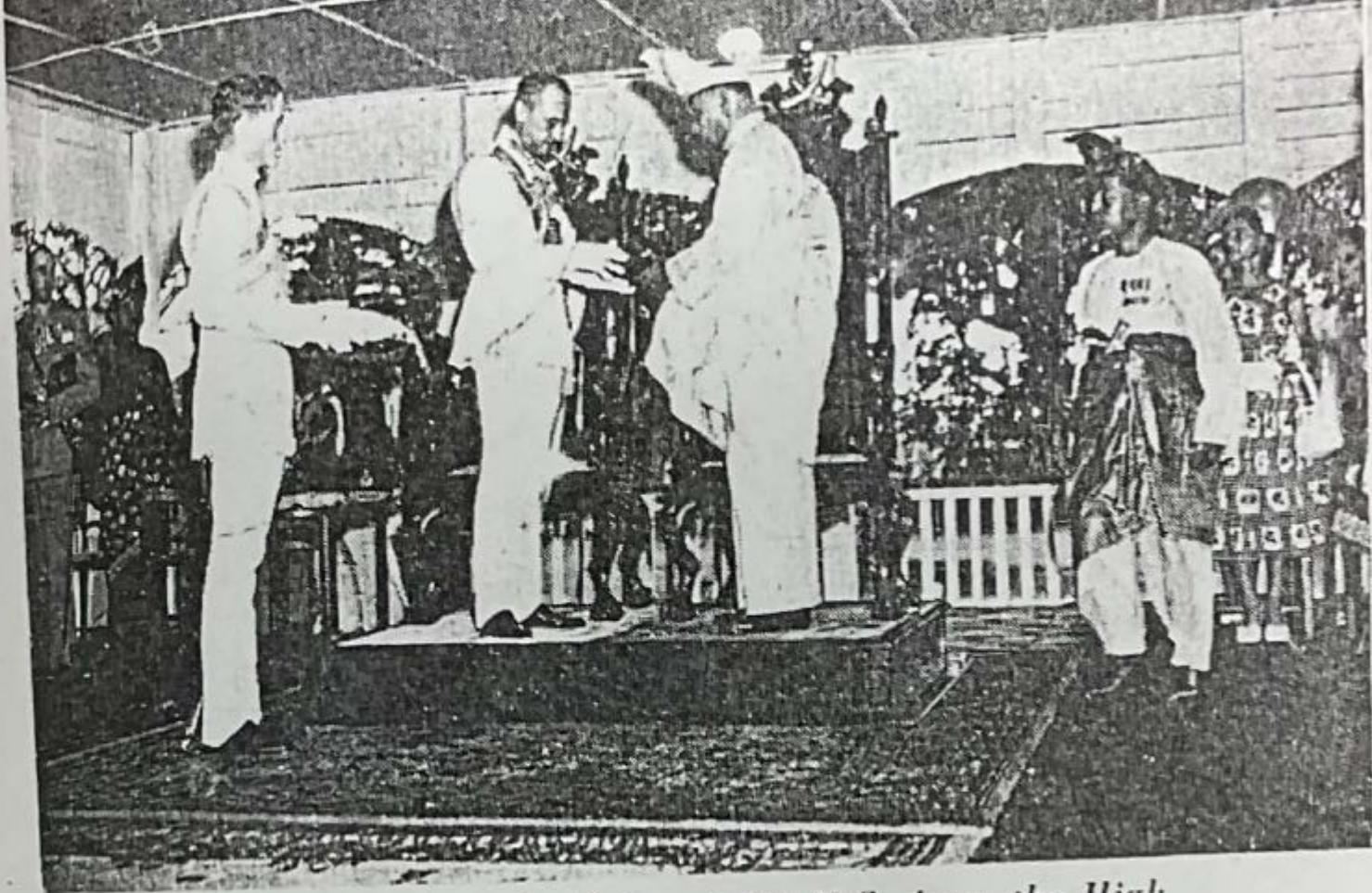


the Sultan, addressed to the raiyat, stating that Yeop Mahidin was acting on His Highness's behalf and calling on them for full support. At this time there were over four hundred armed Malay terrorists in the Temerloh jungle, and most kampongs were so intimidated that they were reluctant to offer any resistance even when they were able to be armed with shotguns. His Highness took a personal interest in the shortage of arms, and visited arms dealers in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore to seek specially favourable consideration for Pahang's needs whenever shipments from overseas were received. The majority of the shotguns supplied as a result were purchased by the villagers themselves. The turn in the tide occurred in August, 1949, at Kampong Paya Jejawi, in Sanggang Mukim, some five miles up river from Temerloh. A body of Malay terrorists, including Manap Jepun, Abdullah C. D. and Musa Ahmad, attacked Kampong Paya Jejawi after dark with a force estimated at between sixty and a hundred. They were resisted with great determination for two and a half hours by a party of eight Malay Kampong Guards, who had been inspired by a recent visit from His Highness. These men exercised superlative fire control, expending only one hundred and twenty-eight rounds of ammunition, though for part of this time their home-made defence posts were lit by the flames of two burning houses, and eventually the terrorists melted into the jungle, never again to venture upon a direct attack on a Malay kampong in Temerloh district.

*His Highness inspecting Bentong Home Guard.*



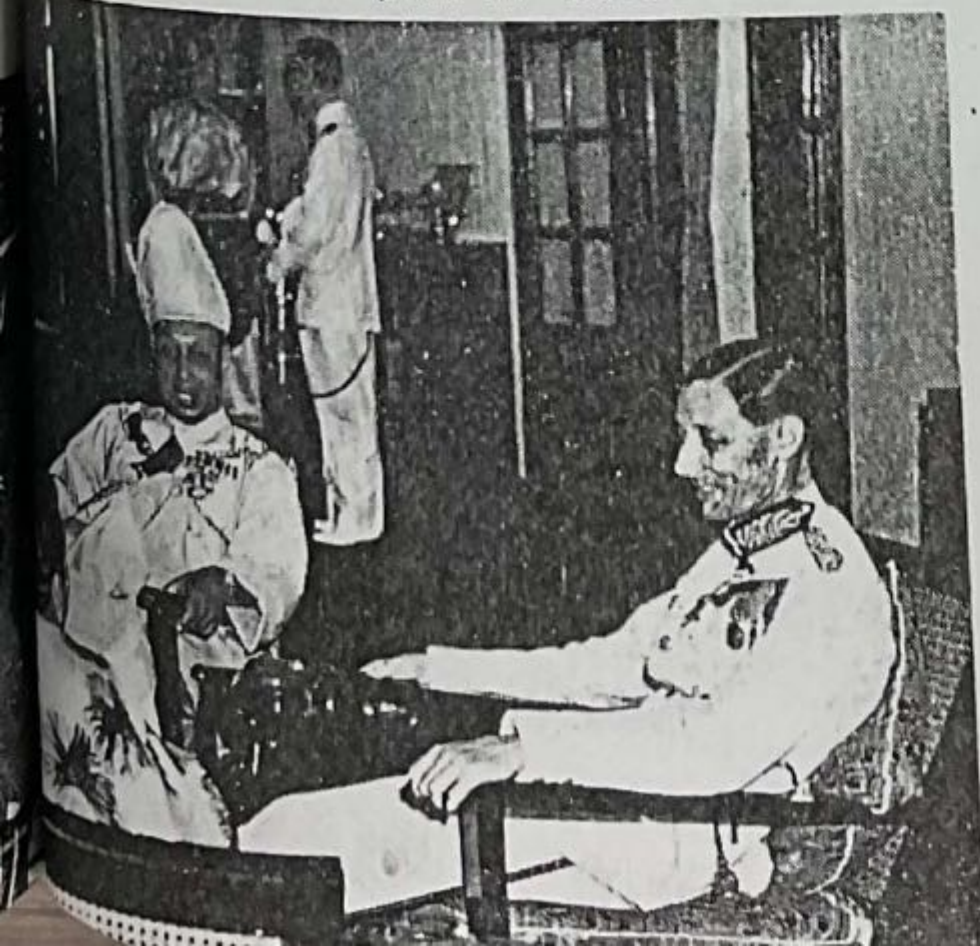




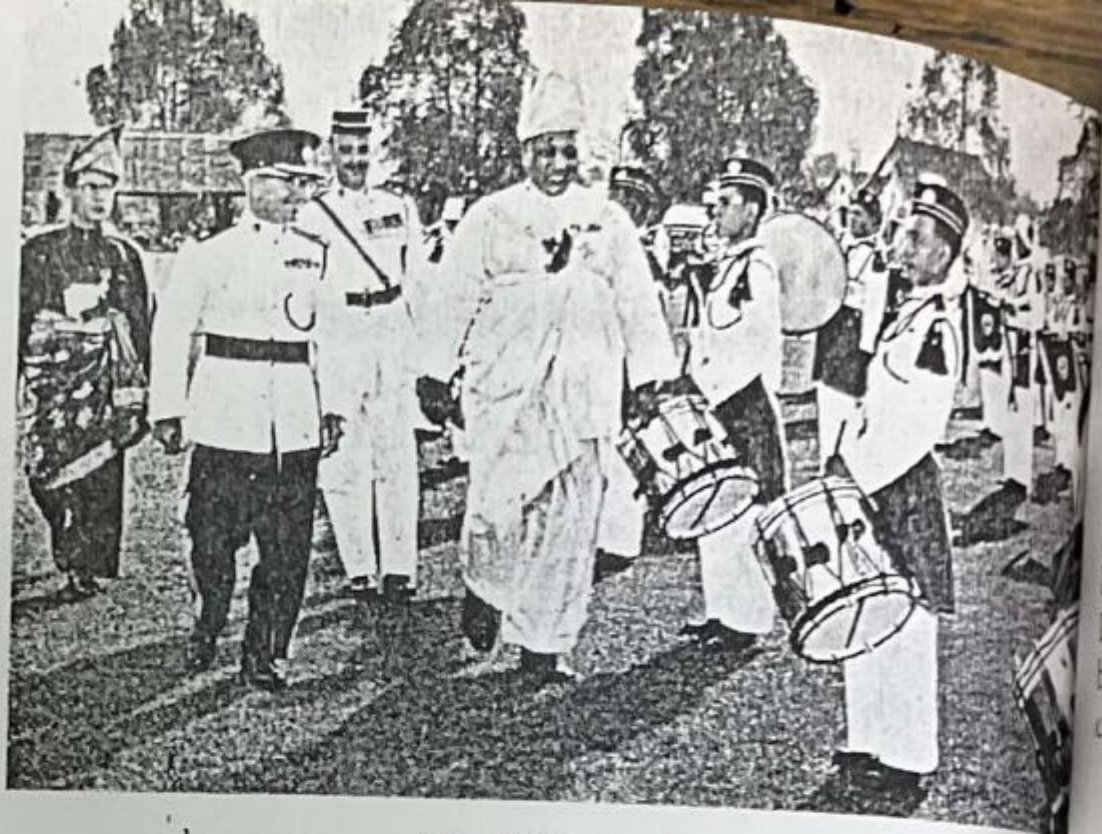
*His Highness receiving the Order of G.C.M.G. from the High Commissioner Sir Gerald Templer at Pekan, 1953.*

His Highness directed that he should be kept constantly informed of the activities of the Kampong Guards, and later, when expanded, of the Home Guards, and he invariably sent a telegram of congratulations to mark any success, and followed this with a personal visit whenever possible. Home Guards were always included, at His Highness's command, in any Guard of Honour which was mounted to receive him, and he

*His Highness receives a visit from Sir Donald MacGillivray.*







*His Highness inspects the Police Band.*

often took a Home Guard Operational Section as his escort when on tour during the height of the Emergency.

When over sixty of the Malay Terrorists had surrendered at the end of 1949 His Highness paid a special visit to Temerloh, and spoke to all of them in a way which had a powerful effect on his hearers. Each one in turn came forward and knelt before His Highness and asked for pardon, and many of them said that they had never intended to revolt against the Sultan or to be Communists.

His Highness gave orders that he was to be sent a copy of every Emergency situation report as soon as it was issued, and whenever any Malay Terrorist surrendered he took an early opportunity of visiting the district where the man was in custody and of speaking to him. His Highness continued to take a personal interest in Malay detainees and paid regular visits to the Detention Camps at Tanjong Bruas and Ipoh.

The Malay Regiment, as it grew to seven battalions, still retained His Highness's keen interest, and he always attended the presentation of Colours ceremonies. In 1950 His Highness sent his A.D.C. Tengku Nasiruddin to Port Dickson for training as an A.D.C. He took part



in a training course for young officers and passed out first, and, instead of taking him back to Pekan, His Highness encouraged Tengku Nasiruddin to enlist in the Malay Regiment and he now holds the rank of Captain in the 4th Battalion.

The reduction of Communist Terrorists in Pahang from 2,300 in 1948 to 54 by mid-1956 is a proud record, and when the map of Pahang is displayed, showing the whole of the largest State in the Federation as a White Area except for one small corner, there could be no more fitting tribute to the leadership and courage of the Ruler who celebrates his Silver Jubilee and his fifty-third birthday on 29th May, 1957.

LONG MAY HE REIGN!



*His Highness inspecting the 6th Bn. Malay Regiment at Mentakab.*



